CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for facilitating analysis of one or more aspects of a communications network, the method being suitable for use in connection with a multi-protocol communications analyzer, and the method comprising:

identifying ports of the multi-protocol communications analyzer;

determining whether one or more of the identified ports are available;

using at least one of any available ports to at least partially define a domain; and

configuring at least one port of any domain that was defined in connection with an available port.

2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the method is performed by way of a graphical user interface.

3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the domain, if any domain was defined, comprises one of: a modified version of a previously existing domain; a new domain.

4. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising modifying any domain that was at least partially defined in connection with an available port.

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5. The method as recited in claim 4, wherein modifying any domain that was at least partially defined in connection with an available port comprises changing the number of ports associated with the domain.

6. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising displaying information concerning the ports of the multi-protocol communications analyzer.

7. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising displaying information concerning availability of the ports of the multi-protocol communications analyzer.

8. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising displaying information concerning a domain.

9. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising displaying information concerning port parameters.

10. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising receiving one of: a domain creation request; a domain modification request.

11. The method as recited in claim 10, further comprising receiving and displaying the name of the domain that is the subject of the received request.

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12. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising receiving port selection input if a port has been determined to be available.

13. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising receiving port configuration input if a domain has been at least partially defined in connection with an available port.

14. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising displaying port configuration information if a domain has been at least partially defined in connection with an available port.

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15. A method for facilitating use of a multi-protocol communications analyzer in connection with a communications network, the method being implemented in association with a graphical user interface and comprising:

displaying a list of ports associated with the multi-protocol communications analyzer;

displaying the name of a domain that is the subject of one of: a domain creation request; a domain modification request;

receiving port selection input concerning the domain that is the subject of the received request;

displaying information concerning a selected port;

receiving port configuration input concerning a selected port; and

displaying port configuration information.

16. The method as recited in claim 15, wherein displaying information concerning a selected port comprises displaying:

a designator unique to the selected port; and

a communication protocol associated with the selected port.

17. The method as recited in claim 16, wherein the displayed communication protocol comprises one of: Infiniband; Gigabit Ethernet; SONET; Fibre Channel; and, PCI Express.

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18. The method as recited in claim 15, wherein displaying port configuration information comprises displaying at least one user modifiable parameter of the selected port.

19. The method as recited in claim 15, wherein at least two of the following are displayed substantially contemporaneously: the list of ports associated with the multi-protocol communications analyzer; the name of the domain that is the subject of the request; information concerning a selected port; and, port configuration information.

20. The method as recited in claim 15, further comprising receiving one of: a domain creation request; and, a domain modification request.

21. The method as recited in claim 15, further comprising displaying a list of ports associated with the displayed domain name.

22. The method as recited in claim 15, further comprising receiving a request to display ports associated with the multi-protocol communications analyzer.

23. The method as recited in claim 15, further comprising displaying information concerning availability of ports associated with the multi-protocol communications analyzer.

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24. A computer program product for implementing a method for facilitating use of a multi-protocol communications analyzer in connection with a communications network, the method being implemented in association with a graphical user interface, and the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium carrying computer executable instructions for performing the method, wherein the method comprises:

displaying a list of ports associated with the multi-protocol communications analyzer;

receiving one of: a domain creation request; a domain modification request;

receiving and displaying the name of the domain that is the subject of the received request;

receiving port selection input concerning the domain that is the subject of the received request;

displaying information concerning a selected port;

receiving port configuration input concerning a selected port; and

displaying port configuration information.

25. The computer program product as recited in claim 24, wherein displaying information concerning a selected port comprises displaying:

a designator unique to the selected port; and

a communication protocol associated with the selected port.

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26. The computer program product as recited in claim 25, wherein the displayed communication protocol comprises one of: Infiniband; Gigabit Ethernet; SONET; Fibre Channel; and, PCI Express.

27. The computer program product as recited in claim 24, wherein displaying port configuration information comprises displaying at least one user modifiable parameter of the selected port.

28. The computer program product as recited in claim 24, wherein at least two of the following are displayed substantially contemporaneously: the list of ports associated with the multi-protocol communications analyzer; the name of the domain that is the subject of the request; information concerning a selected port; and, port configuration information.

29. The computer program product as recited in claim 24, wherein the method further comprises receiving one of: a domain creation request; and, a domain modification request.

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30. The computer program product as recited in claim 24, wherein the method further comprises displaying a list of ports associated with the displayed domain name.

31. The computer program product as recited in claim 24, wherein the method further comprises receiving a request to display ports associated with the multi-protocol communications analyzer.

32. The computer program product as recited in claim 24, wherein the method further comprises displaying information concerning availability of ports associated with the multi-protocol communications analyzer.

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